



Robert Turner

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TO THE 61ST ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Robert Turner's Testimony Supporting AB 376
Restitution for Misappropriation from a Cemetery of Certain Objects that
Relate to a Veteran

Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign
Finance Reform, and Housing 201 SE
Tuesday, November 10, 2009

Senator Taylor (Chair)
Senator Hopper

Senator Erpenbach
Senator Sullivan

Senator Grothman

Chairman Taylor and members:

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of Assembly Bill 376 relating to restitution for misappropriation from a cemetery of certain objects that relate to a veteran.

AB 376 was introduced at the request of Michael Furgal, the State Legislative Chair and Past State Commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), to help eliminate the problem of theft of veteran's bronze cemetery markers. This legislation was introduced last session as AB 578 by Rep. Musser. It passed the Assembly, was sent to the Senate, and passed unanimously by the Senate committee on Judiciary, Corrections and Housing. There was not enough time during the last legislative session for this bill to be signed into law.



Under current law, a court must order a person who is convicted of a crime to pay restitution to any victim of the crime *unless the court finds substantial reason not to order restitution*. This bill specifies that a court *must require* a person who is convicted of misappropriating a veteran's cemetery marker to reimburse the cost to replace the markers.

This bill is supported by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Wisconsin Cemetery and Cremation Association.

Thank you.